



Pi  
Lambda  
Theta

# NewsLetter

International Honor Society and Professional Association in Education

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## Something for Everyone at the PLT Leadership Conference This July!

by Liz Douglass, PLT First Vice President

The 2007 Pi Lambda Theta Leadership Conference, "Energy through Synergy: Powerful Designs for Leadership," is designed for all to attend and take something applicable home. The conference, which will be held at the Omni Richmond Hotel in Richmond, Va., July 26–29, has two very striking components—Critical Friends Groups and K–



Douglass

12 strengths-based education from The Gallup Organization. The great thing is, you can enjoy one or both of them! Whether you are interested in learning more about strengths-based education and its use in the K–12 arena or are interested in learning about Critical Friends Groups, you can examine both in the same conference. Yes, we have designed it that way! We knew that many people would be interested in learning

about both programs. We have also been receiving some stellar proposals from across the country! So there will be no time to sit and relax, because you will have lots to keep your mind going.

Gallup's program and Critical Friends Groups have goals that coincide with my expectations for a good conference. To attend a conference, I have to know that my students will benefit from it. I also want to know that I will benefit as a professional. Both of our conference's designs promise to promote student engagement at all levels, and both will help you grow as a professional. Gallup's program is a tool that will give you a design to identify students' strengths and have a common denominator for communicating with parents and students. Critical Friends Groups focus on creating supportive peer networks that emphasize making your teaching more effective. The great thing is that the training for both of

*(continued on next page)*

### Fort Wayne Area President Honored



Fort Wayne Area Chapter President Ruby Cain proudly displays the award the Indiana NewsCenter (TV21) conferred upon her October 26. See page 3 for more about Cain and other PLT Headliners.

## Show Your Thetan Pride with PLT Logo Products!

The PLT International Office has more than tripled its offerings of PLT logo accessories for use at home, in the classroom, or anywhere you want to display your pride in Pi Lambda Theta. Oh—did we mention that these items should prove useful and versatile, too? Choose among some 30 reasonably priced items at [www.pilambda.org](http://www.pilambda.org)'s Online Store. You'll find T-shirts and pullovers, a ball cap, an assortment of refrigerator magnets, a handsome wall clock, and even a teddy bear.



Melanie Heupel, manager of PLT member services, urges Thetans to log on and take a look for themselves. "We're excited about adding the new PLT logo products to our Online Store," she says. "You can select your PLT-friendly items in no time—just make your selections and enter your major credit card

number. Our vendor, [cafepress.com](http://cafepress.com), will ship your order within three days." All items, she adds, come with a 30-day satisfaction guarantee.

Heupel cautions that orders of the new logo products can't be combined with the traditional offerings of the Online Store—honor cords, pins, and several accessories.

# Leadership Conference 2007: Two Designs for the Price of One

This July's PLT Leadership Conference, "Energy through Synergy: Powerful Designs for Leadership," will provide our participants an in-depth look at not one, but two, exciting



Rita Jones

approaches to professional development in schools: Critical Friends Groups from the National School Reform Faculty, and K-12 strengths-based education from The Gallup Organization. You won't have to choose one professional development design over the other: the schedule will allow you to attend everything involving both designs. (See page 7 for conference-registration information.) That makes this conference the best value of the year for nearly any professional development budget.

A school can employ either design alone or both together. You'll leave the conference knowing how and when to use each design, what it can accomplish, and how to proceed if either design looks right for your school.

The Critical Friends Group (CFG), created by the National School Reform Faculty, is a tool that groups of ten to twelve educators can use. (The Fall 2005 issue of **educational HORIZONS** was devoted to CFGs; download all or part of the issue at Publications on the PLT website.) CFG members can be selected several ways—within a grade level, or from

diverse subject areas. As a result, a CFG's focus is completely flexible. What makes the CFG more than a mere collegial support group, however, is its set of highly structured protocols that address different kinds of professional development topics and challenges.

The power of CFGs lies in their potential to provide a secure, stable place where educators can

- establish and publicly state student learning goals;
- collectively examine student work;
- identify school-culture issues that affect student achievement;
- help each other improve teaching practices; and
- give each other feedback that is challenging without being threatening.

Standing alone, CFGs allow their members to improve their practice. CFGs adopted by an entire school can provide the philosophical foundation and operational synergy to create true professional learning communities. CFGs are among a handful of professional development approaches for educators that the National Staff Development Council (NSDC) has acknowledged to be "influential" in improving practice, disposition, and results for students.

In my next column, I'll go into more detail about The Gallup Organization's new K-12 strengths-based education program. In the meantime, you can refer to our Spring 2005 and Spring 2006 **educational HORIZONS** issues for more information ([www.pilambda.org/Publications/Online](http://www.pilambda.org/Publications/Online) volumes). One way or another, you should have all the documentation your staff development personnel will need when you ask for financial support to attend the conference.

And please don't forget to mention: this conference is "two designs for the price of one."

## Tell Us!

... if you have news to send us about:

- o Professional accomplishment/award
  - o Doctoral dissertation
  - o Chapter activity or project
- (Please include photo if possible.)

... what we're doing well or how we could improve: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

My address is:     new     old

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Member No. or Chapter Affiliation \_\_\_\_\_

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## Something for Everyone (continued from first page)

these designs is free at the conference—it is normally quite costly.

"Energy through Synergy" is probably the most cost-effective and time-efficient conference you can attend. Your principal will love the fact that you have experienced so much for so little, and you will love it because you can earn license-renewal hours. And education students can apply for a limited number of scholarships that cover the registration fee, plus \$150 toward expenses. See "Student participation scholarships" at [www.pilambda.org/Conference](http://www.pilambda.org/Conference).

So much to learn, so little time! There will be workshops on legislative advocacy for those wishing to learn some tips about effectively contacting legislators. If you want to move at a slower pace, there will still be plenty to keep your mind busy. We will have historically focused workshops, with a local historian presenting, for retirees interested in learning about the history of the area.

After a long day of learning, it is a good idea to see the city. The Richmond area is absolutely beautiful in the summer. On a visit there last summer, I strolled along the river near the Omni. It was very refreshing to get a breath of fresh air. There is a historical trail quite close to the hotel, and the area is excellent for exploring. During our conference several events celebrating Richmond's 400th anniversary will take place, so be prepared to have an active nightlife. There really is something for everyone! I look forward to seeing you soon!



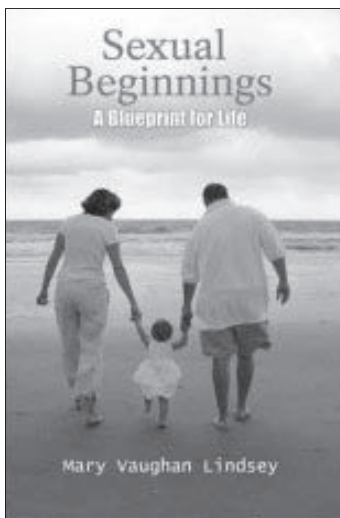
## Headliners

On August 31, the *Honolulu Advertiser* profiled **Dr. Janet Ishikawa-Fullmer**. She is a longtime member of Hawaii Chapter and, with her husband, Daniel Fullmer, a major supporter of the PLT Educational Endowment. The illustrated feature article, "Energetic in Her Eighties," explored aspects of Ishikawa-Fullmer's active lifestyle, diet, and fitness regimen.

**Carolyn Claire Adams**, a Direct Honors member at large in Southeast Region VIII, spent six months of 2006 in Liberia as a volunteer for Samaritan's Purse, the humanitarian organization headed by Franklin Graham. The goal of the mission is helping Liberian society with restoration after 13 years of civil war and destruction of infrastructure.

For a second year, **Jeanne Christie** (Beta Sigma/U. of Connecticut Chapter) has received the Women's Overseas Scholarship Award (WOSL) to help complete her dissertation, which will involve the relationship among frequency and source of communication and dispositional optimism for U.S. Reserve and National Guard women deployed in Iraq. WOSL is an organization of multiple generations, from the World War I era through Iraq, of civilian and military women who served with the U.S. military overseas.

**Mary G. Vaughan-Lindsey** (Alpha Nu/State U. of New York at Buffalo Chapter) is the author of *Sexual Beginnings: A Blueprint for Life*, published this fall by iUniverse (ISBN 0-595-39337-3). Vaughan-Lindsey's qualifications for writing a book on children's development include her status as the mother or stepmother of 11,



grandmother of 24, a B.A. in psychology, and an M.A. in rehabilitation counseling. Most of all, she says, her experiences as a psychiatric rehab counselor and director of a college counseling center have convinced her that Americans need to change the ways they care for and educate their children.

Vaughan-Lindsey

## Fort Wayne Area President Recognized for Community Involvement



On October 26, Fort Wayne Area Chapter President Ruby Cain received the Indiana NewsCenter (TV21) Women in Leadership Award.

The award recognizes women who have "gone beyond the norm to excel and provide leadership and example for all who know them." An appointed committee of community and business leaders judges all nominations.

Cain is completing her doctoral studies in adult and community education at Ball State U. The president/CEO of Creative Training Excellence, Inc., she has been active in PLT at the chapter, regional, and international levels, including facilitating TEAL workshops in four states.

was initiated into Alpha Nu Chapter in 1975.

At the Ohio Educational Library Media Association conference held this fall, **Jo Anne Dilworth Collins**, a National Board-certified member at large, received the Ohio Educational Library Media Association/Follett Resources School Librarian of the Year award. Collins joined PLT after earning her National Board Certification in library/media in November 2005. She is currently library/media specialist at Van Buren Middle School in Kettering, Ohio.

### DISSERTATIONS

**Donna Brown** (Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan), "Job Satisfaction and Its Relationship to Organizational and Religious Commitment among Workers at Northern Caribbean University"



Brown

**Jeffrey D. Strain** (Indiana State University), "Psychological Well-being and Level of Outness in Male-to-Female Transsexuals"

**Cristina C. Rathyen** (University of Hawaii), "'Teacher, Teacher, Show Me a Picture.' Rethinking English: A Practitioner Study."



Rathyen

## Chapter & Member News

On October 14, Detroit Area Chapter honored five outstanding new teachers with a formal initiation ceremony. The event was held at the Detroit Historical Museum.

- **Janice Stege** works in the Clarkston School District with autistic children and with Section 8 to find clean and affordable housing for low-income people.
- **Deanna Van Damme** is in her fourth year at Oakland University, pursuing her bachelor's degree in elementary education. Her major is mathematics and her minor is language arts. She has been on the dean's list every semester since fall 2003.
- **Brandy Hudson** is an undergraduate student at Wayne State University, pursuing a bachelor's degree in elementary education. This fall she student taught 7th- and 8th-grade math.



**Jean Wright (far left) introduces five Detroit Area Chapter initiates: Carolyn Lehr, Brandy Hudson, Elizabeth Snoes, Deanna Van Damme, and Janice Stege.**

- **Elizabeth Snoes** is a product of the Wayne State U. school of elementary education, with a concentration in mathematics and science. She hopes that “through teaching I can help my students understand that math is an important tool they will need for use in everyday life.”
- **Carolyn Lehr** received a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in early childhood education from Eastern Michigan University. Three years ago she took a position in the Detroit Public Schools. Finding that the majority of her students spoke Spanish, she registered for ESL courses at Wayne State University. Last June, she completed her education specialist certification in curriculum and instruction, with an endorsement in English as a second language.  
—*Jean Wright, Membership Chair, Detroit Area Chapter*

September's joint meeting of Alpha Delta/UCLA and Santa Monica Bay Area chapters featured the initiation of **Aimee**

**Bittenson**, who received the 2006 teacher of the year award for District 2, Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). As a result of the award, Bittenson has been invited to act as an educational consultant for PBS New York.

**Joyce Dixon**, a longtime educator and administrator for the LAUSD, marked the occasion with an inspirational address.



**On September 9, award-winning LAUSD teacher Aimee Bittenson (center) became the newest member of Alpha Delta Chapter.**

Several members of **Fort Wayne Area Chapter** were among more than 550 women attending the Fort Wayne YWCA's 10th Annual Circle of Women, held on November 30. The event focused on the YWCA teen program to educate girls about healthy dating practices and to recognize and respond appropriately to physical and mental abuse.

On October 27, Fort Wayne Area Chapter donated scrapbooks, newspaper clippings, and historical

data to the Allen County Public Library Historical Genealogy Department. The collection, which includes materials associated with education in the Fort Wayne area, was collected over the years by chapter members. Researchers will be able to use these items to discover specific family members and members of the association, as well as educational activities and events that have taken place in the Fort Wayne area since Fort Wayne Area Chapter was founded in 1948.



**Members of Fort Wayne Area Chapter attending the YWCA's 10th Annual Circle of Women on November 30 included (left to right) Ruth Niewyk, past president; Ruby Cain, president; Barbara Fries, advocacy committee chair; and Diana Jackson, vice president and program committee chair.**

# 2006 PLT Study Tour: Warsaw, the Baltic, and Russia

July 22–August 5, 2006

by Frances F. Shimotsu, PLT Study Tour Committee Chair

The 2006 Pi Lambda Theta Study Tour was exciting and beyond our expectations. It included Warsaw, the Baltic, and Russia. The cities we visited were Warsaw, Poland; Vilnius, Lithuania; Riga, Latvia; Tallinn, Estonia; and St. Petersburg, Novgorod, and Moscow, Russia.

The original tour was scheduled to be a cruise, but the ship was not ready due to extremely cold weather the previous winter. It turned out that the land tour was better than we expected.

We were offered optional tours in most cities. Our enthusiastic group chose all the listed optional tours, among them a Chopin concert, a Polish dinner, an entertaining folklore show, singing and dancing by local artists, and a performance on a cruise boat with tour members participating in the dances, music, and fun. Most magnificent was the Swan Lake ballet at the Bolshoi Theater. There were many more wonderful optional tours, too many to mention.

Our first stop was **Warsaw**, where we visited the medieval Stare Miasto (Old Quarter) with its market square and the 14th-century Cathedral of St. John. In the Historical Museum we watched a moving film showing the city before and after wartime destruction. The cost of living is relatively inexpensive: a half-gallon of apple juice was equivalent to 50 cents, and delicious packaged soups were 35 cents U.S.

For the next five days we visited three small independent Baltic countries. First, in **Vilnius, Lithuania**, the local guide accompanied us from Kutuzov Square through winding lanes to the Old University founded by Jesuits in 1569; later we visited the KGB Museum. Next, on the way to the Baltic port of **Riga, Latvia**, we stopped at the impressive Hill of Crosses, with thousands of varieties of crosses. In Riga we went sightseeing along the right bank of the Daugava River and took a walking tour of the Old Town and the Jugendstil Quarter. Then we traced the coastline of the Gulf of Riga past the Estonian health resort of **Pärnu**, inhabited since the Stone Age. Our sightseeing featured the

Hanseatic Old Town, and we also visited the Town Hall and the onion-domed Alexander Nevsky Cathedral.

We crossed the river at the historic town of **Narva** and entered Russia. We continued to **St. Petersburg**, where we stayed for the next three nights. The city of St. Petersburg was founded by Peter the Great. Construction began in 1703. For much of the 20th century the city was called Leningrad. The revolution of 1917 and World War II created severe damage. However, the city was restored to its former splendor. We drove along Nevsky Prospect, admired St. Isaac's Cathedral with its gilded dome and slick, shining columns, and visited the magnificent Catherine Palace. All that glittered was gold. The next

visit was to the world-famous Hermitage Museum, which exhibits celebrated works by Rembrandt, da Vinci, and the major French Impressionists.

We continued to **Novgorod**, which has preserved a great part of its medieval heritage. The city has no "glitter"—a total contrast with St. Petersburg. Everything is subdued. We saw the restored Kremlin and venerable churches dating as far back as the 11th century.

Passing through the Valdai Hills, we reached Tver on the banks of the Volga River ("Mother River" of Russia). We continued on to Moscow

via **Klin**, where the composer Tchaikovsky found inspiration for many of his most famous compositions.

**Moscow** sightseeing included Red Square, considered the center of the 850-year-old city. There was the Lenin Mausoleum and St. Basil's Cathedral. The colors of the structures were striking. Inside the Kremlin, constructed as though it is a city-within-a-city, you can admire the medieval towers, cathedrals, and palaces. The Armory Museum stores such treasures as Ivan the Terrible's throne.

All in all, our members had a truly memorable experience. We hope that in the future you will have a chance to join in one of our Pi Lambda Theta Study Tours. Future approved tours will include China, New Zealand/Australia, and Antarctica.



**Participants in the 2006 PLT Study Tour took time out from their whirlwind schedule to pose before St. Basil's Cathedral. Front row: Priscilla Clark, Frances Shimotsu, Ruby Saito, Amy Uchida, Elizabeth Tang. Back row: Sandy Bender, Jim and Beverly Anderson.**

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# 2007 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

**To guarantee seating, register before June 1.**

(For general sessions, breakout themes, license renewal credit, and student scholarships: visit [www.pilambda.org](http://www.pilambda.org).)

**Register online:** [www.pilambda.org](http://www.pilambda.org)  
Preferred method—fast, easy, reliable

OR

**Fax to:** (812)339-3462

OR

**Mail to:** PLT, P.O. Box 6626  
Bloomington, IN 47407-6626

July 2007						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

## Registrant Information (Please print or type.)

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

- Check if you **DO NOT** want your contact information listed in the participant directory.

Special accommodations (food/access)

\_\_\_\_\_

Pi Lambda Theta member?

- No  Yes: Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

## Form of Payment (Check one)

- Check enclosed payable to Pi Lambda Theta

- P.O. number \_\_\_\_\_

- Visa/MasterCard:

Card # \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## FULL REGISTRATION (Check one)

*Included:* all scheduled meals (Thursday dinner, Friday and Saturday lunch, and Sunday breakfast), general sessions, workshops, exhibits, and conference amenities

- Non-member, non-presenter** **\$369**

- Non-member, presenter/contributor** **\$339**

- I am a workshop presenter.  
 I am a delegate/alternate (attach copy of credentials).  
 I will help with registration.

- Member, non-presenter** **\$269**

- Member, presenter/contributor** **\$239**

- I am a workshop presenter.  
 I am a delegate/alternate (attach copy of credentials).  
 I will help with registration.

- Student (member or non-member)** **\$169**

Include copy of current I.D. with this form. (You may be eligible for a student scholarship. Visit [www.pilambda.org](http://www.pilambda.org) or call the international office for details at 800-487-3411.)

## PARTIAL REGISTRATION (Check one)

- 2-Day pass** (Friday/Saturday, includes two meals) **\$269**

- Thursday Dinner & Keynote address** **\$75**

## OPTIONS (not included in registration fee)

- City motorcoach tour** (Saturday afternoon) **\$25**

- Half-day Jamestown/Williamsburg Tour** **\$TBA**

- Endowment dinner** (Includes \$100 donation) **\$150**

- Endowment dinner** (\$100 donation paid previously) **\$50**

**All refunds** will be issued less a \$25 administrative fee.

**No refunds** after June 24, 2007.

**On-site registration** will incur an additional \$25 fee.

Any conference proceeds will be distributed to chapters in proportion to the number of paid participants attributed to each chapter (Procedure 5.1-2).

## LODGING

### The Omni Richmond Hotel

Luxury and the best of Richmond's southern comfort, overlooking the scenic James River in the heart of the Richmond's financial and historical districts. The Omni Richmond Hotel is just fifteen minutes from Richmond International Airport. Fine dining, shopping and entertainment are right outside your front door.

Rooms are limited, so make your reservations early! Book the PLT group rate online at [www.pilambda.org](http://www.pilambda.org) or call the Omni Hotel at 1-800-THE-OMNI (1-800-843-6664) or 804-344-7000. Be sure to request the discounted Pi Lambda Theta conference rate (Single/Double \$112 or Triple/Quad \$132 plus 5% sales tax and 8% occupancy tax).





**ENERGY THROUGH SYNERGY—  
POWERFUL DESIGNS FOR LEADERSHIP**

**Pi Lambda Theta Leadership Conference  
July 26–29, 2007 ■ Richmond, Virginia**

**Two Powerful Designs—One Conference  
Strengths-based Education**

**Strengths-based program** The Gallup Organization's strengths-based program provides the tools for achieving student engagement in higher education and K-12 **Critical Friends Groups** The National School Reform Faculty's Critical Friends Groups design provides relevant structure and training to apply the tools successfully.

**Who should attend?** Teachers ■ Administrators ■ Teacher educators ■ Education students ■ Staff-development professionals

**Registration form on reverse, or visit [www.pilambda.org](http://www.pilambda.org)**



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*A comprehensive, three-part job referral  
service for members of Pi Lambda Theta*

**PLT Career Partners**

More than 1,000 members have volunteered to assist other members with job searches in their geographic areas. Career Partners receive résumés of all appropriate JobMatch participants.

A listing of cities and states that are currently covered appears at [www.pilambda.org](http://www.pilambda.org).

**PLT JobList**

This service is available to all PLT members at [www.pilambda.org](http://www.pilambda.org). Employers can list their jobs on-line with JobList at no charge. Supplemental hot links are provided to education job listings on dozens of Web sites.

**PLT JobMatch**

**PLT JobMatch** taps Thetan **Career Partners** to help in a member's job search. PLT will distribute a member's résumé to the Career Partners in any one of more than 100 U.S. search areas each calendar year FREE. Distribute your résumé to additional search areas for a nominal fee. Find the national list of search areas and register on-line at [www.pilambda.org](http://www.pilambda.org), or call 1-800-487-3411.



Pi Lambda Theta

**EDUCATIONAL ENDOWMENT**

HERE IS MY CONTRIBUTION:

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ENDOWED AWARDS

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Anna Tracey \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Edna Mae Soper \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Beta Chi Chapter \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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GEORGIA SACHS ADAMS \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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